

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A1 --In accordance with the invention, the sheet-metal blank has at least two pressed stamped circumferentially closed sleeve parts, which are connected to each other by a single connecting web. In the final fabrication state, the sleeve parts are coaxially arranged, one next to the other, with the end surfaces of the sleeve parts facing each other to form circumferentially closed joint eye.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2 --A circumferentially closed pass-through opening 17 having a circular profile is produced in the middle of the connecting web 7. This opening has an axis which is arranged radially with respect to the axis of the coaxial sleeve parts. The opening is intended to hold a connector (not shown), such as a piston rod 19 (see Figure 2).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A3 --Figure 5a shows a tubular body, which is produced from a flat sheet-metal blank in a stamping/pressing operation. In this stamping/pressing operation, the tubular body is given formed with a circumferentially closed inside wall having transition surfaces 21; 23 at its ends 11; 13, so that it can more easily accept a spring element and/or a damping element 51 as shown in Figure 2. The transition surfaces can be very easily made during the forming process and do

A3

not require any extra effort. A sheared edge surface 63 cuts off the border 65, which is an unavoidable result of the forming process. The radial dimension of this border is very small.--
